

GREAT FLEET SAILS

The Girls Who Are Snapped Up.

All young men are not silly, and apt to be fascinated by a pretty face when more enduring charms are lacking.

Belgium and the Congo.

The latest turn in Congo affairs is the decision of the special commission of the Belgian chamber, by vote of nine to seven, not to interfere with the king's control of the budget of the proposed African colony.

The president of the State Agricultural college of North Carolina is a real reformer. He advised the students to substitute man-to-man fighting in the open, for hazing, and the students have taken up the system with enthusiasm.

The most valuable opal in the world is to be seen in the Imperial cabinet at Vienna. Another, worn by the Empress Josephine, known as the "Darning of Trons," which only is a little less magnificent, is in the possession of the marchioness of Luttre.

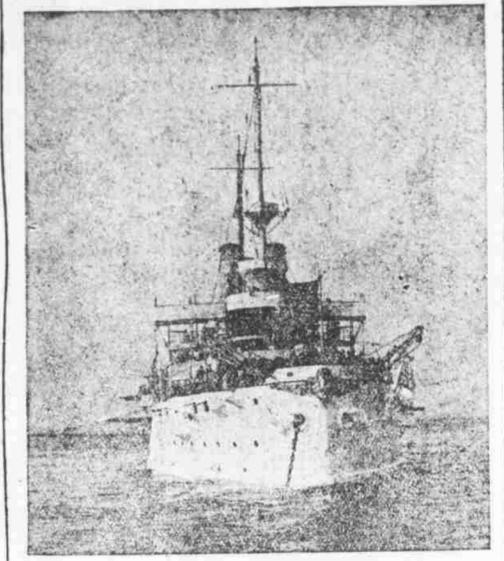
An incident which shows how secure women have made their place in the industrial structure of the times has lately occurred in Rhode Island. A woman who had worked for a single great manufacturing concern for 35 years was discharged for causes which her fellow workers, men as well as women, believed to be unjust.

When you enter a shop state just what you want. For then the merchant can go intelligently to work to sell you something else. The great law of commerce is to sell people what they don't want.

Canada has just made us a present of another strip of Alaskan territory which belonged to us because we bought it from Russia. In order that there may be no bitter feelings this time let us extend hearty thanks.

We should cultivate daily the garden of our own soul and heart, rooting out the weeds and nettles of envy, malice and tyranny, leaving nothing to bud, bloom and fruit but hope, beauty, mercy, truth, moderation and benevolence.

Surgical operations may be performed upon Pittsburg schoolboys who fall behind in their studies. Get busy, boys. If it is successful in Pittsburg the practice may be adopted elsewhere.



THE BATTLESHIP "CONNECTICUT"



Hampton Roads, Va., Dec. 16.—The departure to-day of the great Atlantic squadron for the Pacific is only another of the many great proofs of the nation's marvelous growth and development.

The iron clad warship is only 45 years old, yet, passing through a process of swift evolution to its present perfection, this American discovery has revolutionized the science of naval warfare throughout the world.

It was in Hampton Roads that the first chapter in the world's history of iron ships was written. It was in Hampton Roads that the nation gathered 16 of her finest sea fighters ready for a trip of nearly 20,000 miles.

History of American Navy.

The first appropriation made for a navy for this country was that of the continental congress in 1775, and the sum of \$100,000 was expected to purchase, equip and generally outfit 12 ships.

"If we are to have a commerce we must have a navy to defend it," wrote Col. Humphreys from the Barbary States in 1793 after he had been sent to see if there were means of stopping the piracy of Algiers and Tripoli on American trading vessels.

ALL ARE LOYAL TO EVANS.

Sailors of the Fleet Respect and Love the Admiral.

There is little doubt of the loyalty of the bluejackets of Rear-Admiral Evans.

He believes in the old saying about all work and no play. He has encouraged athletics and all forms of amusement, until the men have more play than ever before, and the efficiency of the fleet shows they do more work.

One day at a certain port an apprentice boy who was tossing a ball about ashore was clubbed by a policeman. His comrades took him off in a boat to the flagship and asked to see the admiral.

incorporated this sentiment in his message of 1794 the United States still paid tribute, because there was no navy to prove her independence. However, that congress appropriated \$700,000 with which to build six frigates.

Quick Work of Preparation.

The president issued the orders for the sailing of this fleet on August 23, and since then coal mines, railways, provision dealers, and manufacturers of heavy ordnance and ammunition have known the busiest season they have had since the Spanish-American war.

The aggregate displacement of the vessels sailing is nearly 42,000 tons, and the aggregate power is 664 guns of four inch calibre and over. The four divisions of this fleet will carry 581 officers and 11,500 enlisted men, as fine an array of jacksies as any navy has ever known, and an earnest and eager set, too, for as soon as the news of the cruise was noised abroad enlistments increased rapidly throughout the navy and desertions became practically unknown.

The moose wife who puzzles for days over the packing of her husband's grips and lunch basket when he is off for a week's hunting trip, can never begin to appreciate the enormity of Columbia's task in fitting out her 11,500 sons for an outing of 15 days, in which they are not expected to set foot on land at all. Besides all the stores that each ship can carry when her capacity is taxed to its fullest, there will be two ships that carry supplies alone, the Glacier and Culgoa.

Immense Supply of Coal.

The item of coal alone is not inconsiderable. On October 12, contracts were let for 133,000 tons to be delivered at the six seaport towns where the fleet will stop, Trinidad, Rio Janeiro, Punta Arenas, Callao, Magdalena bay and San Francisco. It is mined in West Virginia, shipped by rail to four tide water cities of the Atlantic, and whom there is handled by five American companies in 30 foreign steamers to the ports named, where it is piled on the piers ready for the battleships. Fifteen of these steamers go all the way to San Francisco with their cargoes. The cost of the coal will be about \$3 a ton, and

found that the boy was doing no more than other civilians ashore at the same time and seemed to have been singled out for attack by the policeman because he was a seaman. Turning to the executive officer of the flagship Rear-Admiral Evans said: "Pick out 50 good husky ones, give them a baseball and send them ashore."

An hour later a boat came alongside and a chief of police came aboard wearing a disturbed look. "Admiral, your men are beating up my policemen."

"Are they? Well, I'm glad to hear it. That's what I sent them ashore for."

The 50 husky ones had gone ashore, tossed their ball about, and when the confident police descended upon them they found a very different reception.

And it Makes No Difference. A girl needn't feel hurt because her sweetheart can't tell her why he loves her. He doesn't know himself.—Young's Magazine.

Voltaire.

The superfluity is very necessary.



REAR-ADMIRAL ROBLEY D. EVANS



CAPTAIN ROYAL B. INGERSOLL



REAR-ADMIRAL WILLARD B. BROWN

the cost of transportation will come to over \$755,000.

Eight colliers accompany the fleet. The Marcellus, Hannibal, Leonidas and possibly the Sterling accompany the fleet to Trinidad, and then return for more coal. Others will go as far as Rio and return to join the fleet again at Magdalena bay, and all that have free space 'tween decks will carry general supplies for the Mare Island navy yard. The Connecticut carries 150 tons of briquettes made of slack coal and pitch to test them as a suitable fuel for use in the navy.

Provisions in Plenty.

As to provisions, Columbia must pack enough for the giant hampers to feed her sons for the long 115 days, and have enough extra goodies for Christmas, New Year's and Washington birthday dinners, and the list shows she has not been niggardly in her selection.

There are a variety of foodstuffs, including tons of cereals, salt meats, dried fruits and canned goods, and 593,300 pounds of flour for making fresh bread in lieu of long anathematized hard tack. There are tons of deacidated foodstuffs that have already been tested and found good, and the more recent additions—dried eggs and dehydrated vegetables. There are 3,000 pounds of dried eggs, an equivalent of 36,000 dozen fresh eggs, and when the Christmas baking is on and the 30,000 fresh eggs also carried are not available, the mixer of cakes will find that the dried product when mixed with water will froth as easily as the fresh.

New methods of communication between the ships have been installed, and new methods of controlling the fire from the guns. So new is this system of fire control that a retired naval officer was heard to remark when the news came to him: "That is a good idea, a good idea. I am glad to hear it, indeed, for fire is a most dangerous thing aboard a ship." The Colorado was first in this experiment. Wireless telegraphy has been a part of a battleship's equipment for so many years now that it is quite an old story, but the fleet decided it must have wireless telephony, too, so the past few weeks have witnessed a busy scene in Hampton Roads, and in New York and Brooklyn harbors, where experts have been busy putting in the appliances.

Connecticut is Flagship.

Admiral Evans chose the Connecticut as his flagship. Capt. Ingersoll is her commander and chief of staff of the Atlantic fleet. Upon the shoulders of Rear-Admiral Brownlow at Washington, much of the work of preparation fell. The splendid condition of the fleet when it left its anchorage here to-day shows how well he has done it.

A Noble Animal.

The Rajah Dowiah, with a large train of followers, was once going hunting in the neighborhood of Lucknow. On their way they had to pass through a ravine, in which several invalids were lying to receive what benefit they could from the exposure to the sun and air.

When their attendants saw the approaching party, they ran away leaving their charges to their fate. The Grand Vizier, who was riding his favorite elephant, saw the invalids were right in his way, but was determined not to alter his course for their sakes.

As long as the elephant had a free path he went on at full pace, but as soon as he came to the helpless persons he stopped, and would not go on in spite of all the goads the driver inflicted. "Stick the beast in the ear!" cried the rajah, becoming furious. It was done, but in vain. The noble animal waited some time, but as no one came to remove the invalids, he carefully carried each separately in his trunk to a place where they would not be in danger of being trampled to death by the

A REIGN OF GRAFT

"GRAFT" NOT A NEW WORD IN THE WORLD'S LEXICONS.

OF HIGH AND LOW DEGREE

Ignoble Practices That Are Condemned, But Recognized in Business—People Responsible for Their Existence.

Graft is not a recent innovation. History of remote periods tell of it, though perhaps the word that designates it now may belong to the newly-created words, and may be credited to the category of slang. In the times of Moses and Solomon there were grafters, and the Egyptians and later the Greeks had their priests and their oracles, common grafts of the times. History is replete from beginning to the present with tales of graft and grafters. Without graft to add its zest, the work of the fictionists and the historian would be prosy reading.

Perhaps never in the past has graft been reduced to the science that it is now. It is so closely interwoven in the mesh of legitimate transactions that there is hardly a branch of business that is free from it. Alas, not alone is it found in commercial and financial affairs, but is abundantly in evidence in governmental transaction, national, state and municipal. Revelations of the methods of great corporations, the timber land frauds, countless railroad transactions, government buildings, construction of municipal improvements, etc., give a wide knowledge of the world of graft.

Like an unbroken chain it extends from the highest to the lowest in power. The greater the interests, the greater is the opportunity for the operations for the grafters. The small fry politician lives by it. The big gun in congress adds to his prestige and his bank account by it. It appears that it is only a matter of degree between the grafter who stands on the street corner and hawks his wares and the man of honor who holds a place in the United States senate; between the policeman on the beat who cautiously takes a dollar to close his eyes to the doings of the law-breaker, and the man of millions at the head of some mail-order house, or monopoly who can rob the masses high-handed six days in the week and teach a Sunday school class on the seventh.

Graft teaches an ignoble lesson. It is a creator of the hypocrite, and the heretic. It is a poison that benumbs the finer qualities of manhood, and strifes all that develops the spiritual. Yet God reigns; immutable laws exist; and it is poor philosophy, indeed, that teaches that such qualities as sincerity, goodness, and other virtues are merely creations of the wind. They are real, living, lasting, eternal truths that cannot be dowered. Graft may exist, and have its baleful influences; yet in the end will be victorious.

GOOD ROADS LESSON.

Highway Improvement Causes a Betterment in Agricultural Districts.

"Good roads for the people" means a saving of hundreds of millions of dollars yearly to residents of agricultural districts. Good roads mean better rural towns, better country schools, more happiness and greater reward for labor. Yet there are other things that should go hand in hand with good roads, and one of them is opposition to every means that will cause trade to drift from the home town. It matters not how good the roads, the country is impoverished if the roads are the means of sending more dollars to the large cities. In connection with the good roads improvement, let every taxpayer be impressed with the fact that the more money kept in each community makes the pro rata share of taxes for the maintenance of good roads less; that the dollars sent to the big financial centers will not help pay for local improvements.

Lever's Tribute to Dickens.

The greatest imaginative writer, unquestionably since Shakespeare, is the author of "Chuzzlewit" (wrote Charles Lever in 1865). With him we encounter no repetitions; all is varied, novel, and interesting as nature herself, and this great master of humor moves us to tears or laughter without the semblance of an effort on his part; and as for those "inexpensive guests" that sit beside our fireplace at lone hours, or stroll with us in our solitary rambles, we owe more of them to Charles Dickens than to any other writer of the century.

He Was Disenchanted.

"Disenchanted" is the headline over a letter in a Vienna paper from a correspondent in Constantinople. "When I told my friends that I was coming to this city they envied me, and when one man said: 'You go to the city of beautiful women,' I smiled with satisfaction because I believed as he did, and pictured to myself the living forms of those whose pictures we had seen so often as representing the women of Turkey. I have seen them. Those who are young, if they have any beauty no one knows it because their faces are hidden, and those who have passed beyond the youthful period are—well, certainly not beautiful. Take a walk when you come here, on a day when the streets are wet, when the women lift their gowns to save them from the mud, and you will find that there is not a well-formed Turkish woman's foot in the place and that the majority are stock-inclined."

LITTLE TOWN HELPS.

Pertinent Points for Progressive People Who Would Be Prosperous.

Many a town goes backward because its business men are too lazy to get a move on themselves to improve it.

Don't lose hope in the future of your town, but study conditions that need correction and set about to apply a proper remedy.

Your town will not lose anything by impressing each and every farmer in the neighborhood with the fact that the place exists for his benefit as much as for those who reside within its corporate limits.

When there is any work to be done don't wait for your neighbor, Tom Jones or Dick Brown, to commence. Get a move on yourself, and go to them and pull hand in hand with them.

Don't be afraid of criticism. Study well your duty as a citizen and go about it without fear or favor, and you will find that those simpering who may at first call you a busybody will be willing to give you credit for being an enterprising citizen when the needed reforms are brought about by your work.

Give support to the local paper. It can be made a power for good in the community. By the news and advertising pages of it the stranger can gain an excellent idea of the importance of the place. Encourage the editor by giving him all the support that you can.

Good schools can be maintained only in live, up-to-date communities. It has been generally observed that the education of one generation means benefits to coming generations. No community can afford to let its educational facilities decay.

Remember that there are few places outside the courts and the reform institutions where a liar is useful. Don't be a liar. It may work all right for a time, but a single lie may cost a reputation that will be destructive to business and success. If you are at fault, better tell the truth and abide by the consequences.

SCHEMES FOR MONEY-MAKING.

Alleged "Clubs" That Operate to the Loss of Their Members.

Buying of goods from a distance has a charm for some people that in many cases proves expensive. "Fields are green far away," and it is too often that falls are responsible for many things that work against the interests of the individual. Opposition should be given to every plan and scheme that works toward the impoverishing of the smaller towns, and which work against their progress. It is only by combatting the concentration of capital in the large financial centers can the rural towns be kept up to the standard that they should have. These small towns depend upon the business of the merchants for their life, and when this business is divided, the town is made so much the poorer and kept from advancing. Here is where there is justification in advising against the patronage of so-called "clubs," which agree to send premiums to the getter-up of orders for their wares. The secret of the "club" business lies in the selling of large lots of goods to individual purchasers and giving a premium, representing the lot as valued at twice the amount paid for it. The truth is, should the purchaser go to the average merchant, and desire the same class and quantity of goods and pay cash for the same, the saving in dollars and cents to the purchaser would enable him or her to buy a better piece of furniture or other prize than offered by the club concern.

Cash Vs. Credit.

A cash transaction is more desirable than a credit one. If customers would only pay the small town merchant cash for all things purchased, the same as the department stores and mail order houses in the large cities receive, there would be no reason why goods could not be sold at lower prices. It is the constantly turning over of the money invested in business that makes the profit for the merchant. This is one of the reasons of the success of the big city concerns. Few farmers when they sell their crops are willing to wait six months for their pay. Why then should the small merchant in the town be asked to do so. If he has the ready cash to discount his bills, he will be enabled to sell his goods at a lower margin of profit. He cannot have the ready money to do so if he does a credit business.

Importance of Insurance.

Insurance against losses by fire, tornadoes and cyclones is a necessity. How many farmers estimate the vast amounts that are paid yearly to foreign insurance companies for which comparatively small returns are received? How few realize that farm insurance is the less hazardous of any, and that it is too often the case that the farmers are compelled to pay losses incurred on hazardous risks, such as factories of various kinds, and crowded city buildings? It is best to patronize some home insurance company which you know to be sound, and every state has a number of such ones. For the farmer good mutual insurance is always the best. It costs less, because the risks are select ones, and the insured is not compelled to make up losses on the more hazardous kind.

Storing Produce for Market.

Almost every small town has an ice house of sufficient capacity to supply the people locally with ice. It would not be very expensive to conduct in connection with it a cold storage plant of capacity great enough to care for the storing of fruit, eggs and other produce brought in from the surrounding country. Such an establishment would often save farmers considerable money by enabling them to keep their products for a favorable market.

MAN'S LACK OF GALLANTRY.

Or, as You May Look at It, Woman's Unreasonableness.

H. J. Conway, of Chicago, president of the Retail Clerks' International union, advocated at the recent convention in St. Louis the same pay for women as for men clerks.

"When women," said Mr. Conway afterward, "do the same work as men they should get the same wages. And anyone who argues that this is impossible seems to me at once as un-gallant and as illogical as the famous husband of Paint Rock."

"This husband was returning home from market late one Saturday night with his wife. The wife was burdened with a huge market basket, a broom, a lot of mackerel—dear knows what all. As for the man, he carried nothing.

"Coming to a steep hill, the wife paused and said reproachfully: 'Jack, if you were a real man, you'd help me carry some of these parcels.'

"Jack glared at her in disgust and scorn.

"'Aw, how can I?' he growled. 'Ain't I got both hands in my pockets?'"—Rehoboth Sunday Herald.

THAT SWEET CHILD.



"You'll be too old to sit on people's knees soon, Dolly."

"Oh, no, I won't, auntie! I'm not half as old as sister and she sits on Mr. Wilson's knee. I'm never going to be too old for that sort of thing!"

Pretty Hungry.

"Walter, a beefsteak! Quick! I'm in a hurry!"

"We haven't any beefsteak, sir!"

"A chop, then."

"Chops is 'off!'"

"Well, then, an omelet."

"Impossible, sir; we—"

"What! why have you nothing at all in your restaurant?"

"Yes, sir; we've got a sheriff."

Customer (sharpening his knife on the edge of his plate)—Then let's have one.

Paternal Advice. "What was the text this morning?" asked Mr. Wibblesley when his little boy had returned from church.

"A man's a man for a' that."

"Um. Very good. I'm glad you remember it. Now get your Bible and turn down a leaf where the chapter is that has it in, so you'll know where to find it if you ever forget it."

THE MILK PANS are quickly cleaned and rid of all greasy "feel" when washed in Borax and water in the following proportions—1 tablespoonful of Borax to a quart of water.

More men are injured by having things made easy for them than by having their paths beset with difficulties.—C. H. Parkhurst.

ONLY ONE "BROMO QUININE" That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for the signature of R. W. GROVE. Used the World over to Cure a Cold in the Head.

Justice, it would seem, is both blind and deaf.



160 Farms in Western Canada FREE

Typical Farm Scene, Showing Stock Raising in WESTERN CANADA

Some of the choicest lands for grain growing, stock raising and mixed farming in the new districts of Saskatchewan and Alberta have recently been opened for settlement under the

Revised Homestead Regulations

Entry may now be made by proxy (on certain conditions) by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending homesteader. Thousands of homesteads of 160 acres each are thus now easily available in these great grain-growing, stock-raising and mixed farming sections.

There you will find healthful climate, good neighbors, churches for family worship, schools for your children, good laws, splendid crops and railroads convenient to market.

Entry fee in each case is \$10.00. For pamphlet, "Last Best West," particulars as to routes, best time to go and where to locate apply to H. M. WILLIAMS, Law Building, Toledo, Ohio.